IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Withdrawn-Rejoin) A belt tensioning device for a belt drive having at least two belt pulleys and a continuous belt, the belt tensioning device comprising:

a torsion spring assembly with a longitudinal axis (A_2);

a tensioning arm which, at one end, is arranged at the torsion spring assembly so as to be aligned approximately radially relative to the longitudinal axis (A_2); and

a tensioning roller rotatably arranged at the other end of the tensioning arm, wherein an axis of rotation (A_1) of the tensioning roller extends substantially parallel relative to the longitudinal axis (A_2) of the torsion spring assembly and wherein the tensioning arm can be resiliently supported relative to the rack so as to oscillate around the longitudinal axis (A_2);

~~A device according to claim 1,~~ wherein the torsion spring assembly comprises a plurality of individual torsion bars which, by being clamped together at their ends, form a bundle and are in line contact or surface contact with one another.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim [[1]] 2 comprising a damping unit articulated at the tensioning arm and supported at the rack.

4. (Withdrawn-Rejoin) A device according to claim 2, wherein the bundle of torsion bars is clamped in at a first end of the torsion spring assembly in a fixing bush.

5. (Withdrawn-Rejoin-Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4, wherein the bundle of torsion bars is clamped in at a second end of the torsion spring assembly in another bush which is connected in a rotationally ~~fast~~ fixed way to the one end of the tensioning arm.